

STATE HEALTH COUNCIL

April 20, 2016

The State Health Council met with the Public Health Accreditation Board site visit team from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in AV Room 212. As part of the accreditation process for the State Health Department, the team is required to meet with representatives of the Department's governing entity.

A meeting of the State Health Council was called to order by Chairman Wade Peterson at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 in AV Room 214A of the Judicial Wing, State Capitol, Bismarck, ND.

Members present:

Wade Peterson, Mandan, Chairman
Genny Dienstmann, Bismarck, Vice Chairman
Leona Koch, Raleigh, Secretary
Greg Allen, Jamestown (*phone*)
Howard Anderson, Turtle Lake
Jerry Jurena, Bismarck
Gordon Myerchin, Grand Forks
Duane Pool, Bismarck
Dennis Wolf, MD, Dickinson

Members absent:

Mike Jones, Bismarck
Jennifer Schaeffer, Medora

Staff members present:

Terry Dwelle, MD, State Health Officer
Arvy Smith, Deputy State Health Officer
Joyal Meyer, Division of Family Health
Londa Rodahl, Recording Secretary
Brenda Weisz, Division of Accounting

Others present: See ATTACHMENT A

Minutes

HOWARD ANDERSON MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2016 MINUTES AS DISTRIBUTED. SECOND BY DENNIS WOLF AND CARRIED.

Newborn Screening Committee

Joyal Meyer presented the list of members, including new members, on the Newborn Screening Committee and requested the Council's approval of the members.

GORDON MYERCHIN MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW MEMBERS TO THE NEWBORN SCREENING COMMITTEE. SECOND BY GENNY DIENSTMANN AND CARRIED.

Loan Repayment Programs Manuals

Jerry Jurena and Mary Amundson presented the revised manuals, which resulted from suggested changes at the February Health Council meeting. Further comments were made by Council members and revisions will be made. The revised manuals will be sent to the Council members for their final comments. The manuals will be on the August Health Council agenda for final approval.

Arvy Smith informed the Council that the Department has decided to bring the administration of the loan repayment programs back in-house from UND. Previously, through our federal Primary Care Office grant, the Department gave a significant portion of that grant to UND to handle the health shortage areas and other work related to the grant. The Department handled the loan repayment applications through our Primary Care Office; however, when that person retired (June 2013) it was decided to contract with UND to handle the administration of the loan repayment programs as well. At that time, the Health Council directed the Department to maintain the fiscal portion of the programs.

Since then, the Department has found it has to be just as knowledgeable about the programs as UND and so there ends up being a duplication of the work. The Department is renegotiating the UND contract, which technically ended March 31st, but was extended to June 30, 2016. The new contract will be effective July 1, 2016.

Attorney General's Opinion/Open Records

HOWARD ANDERSON MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LITIGATION STRATEGY RELATIVE TO THE CASE BEFORE US. SECOND BY GORDON MYERCHIN AND CARRIED.

Loan Repayment Programs Applications

Mary Amundson presented two applications for the federal SLRP grant, which the state writes and then receives dollars that are matched by the community for a provider. The state received \$308,000. This would fund about six providers and the Council has approved one thus far.

DUANE POOL MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE FEDERAL STATE LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATIONS FOR ALYSSA KELSCH AND PATRICIA MOOS. SECOND BY DENNIS WOLF.

The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED. Allen, Anderson, Dienstmann, Jurena, Koch, Myerchin, Peterson, Pool, and Wolf voted 'aye'. There were no 'nay' votes. Jones and Schaeffer—absent.

Ms. Amundson presented the 43 applications for the state loan repayment programs. She noted there were: 8 dentists and all 8 could be funded; 7 physicians and 5 funded; and 10 advanced practice registered nurses or PAs and 4 funded. For behavioral health, there's a separate category for clinical psychologists and then the behavioral health category. There was one psychologist application and it could be funded. There were 17 other behavioral health applications and 11 could be funded.

GORDON MYERCHIN MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE DENTAL LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATIONS FOR: MONTY STEWART BULZONI, ALEXA CARLSON, DREW ARTHUR

GOEBEL, WESTON JAY HAFNER, SARAH KAY MERTZ, CLINTON S. MILLER, APRIL ROBINSON, AND SAM STICKA. SECOND BY DUANE POOL.

The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED. Anderson, Dienstmann, Jurena, Koch, Myerchin, Peterson, Pool, and Wolf voted 'aye'. There were no 'nay' votes. Allen, Jones and Schaeffer—absent.

HOWARD ANDERSON MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE PHYSICIAN LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATIONS FOR: JACQUELINE BELL, MICHAEL DALLOLIO, STEPHANIE FOUGHTY, YOLANDA MARIE NEWTON, AND MOLLY ORCUTT-WOOD. SECOND BY JERRY JURENA.

The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED. Allen, Anderson, Dienstmann, Jurena, Koch, Myerchin, Peterson, Pool, and Wolf voted 'aye'. There were no 'nay' votes. Jones and Schaeffer—absent.

JERRY JURENA MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE ADVANCED PRACTIC REGISTERED NURSE OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATIONS FOR: KERRI BENNING, CHRISTINE KNUDSVIG, ART RENNER, AND RUTH STANLEY. SECOND BY HOWARD ANDERSON.

The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED. Allen, Anderson, Dienstmann, Jurena, Koch, Myerchin, Peterson, Pool, and Wolf voted 'aye'. There were no 'nay' votes. Jones and Schaeffer—absent.

JERRY JURENA MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATION FOR ROBYN MALEY, CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST. SECOND BY DUANE POOL.

The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED. Allen, Anderson, Dienstmann, Jurena, Koch, Myerchin, Peterson, Pool, and Wolf voted 'aye'. There were no 'nay' votes. Jones and Schaeffer—absent.

JERRY JURENA MOVED THE APPROVAL OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING LOCATED IN HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS: JODI EBEL, SERI GERSZEWSKI, TARA LOSINSKI, LEIGH MCKENZIE, CHELSEA MODLIN, LAUREN ROEMMICH, LISA SCHUSTER, JESSICA VEROLINE, AND BRIAN WILLIAMS. SECOND BY DUANE POOL.

The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED. Anderson, Dienstmann, Jurena, Koch, Myerchin, Peterson, Pool, and Wolf voted 'aye'. There were no 'nay' votes. Allen, Jones and Schaeffer—absent.

DUANE POOL MOVED THE APPROVAL OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATIONS FOR KILEY ANDREAS AND JENNA JOHNSON. SECOND BY GORDON MYERCHIN.

The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED. Anderson, Dienstmann, Jurena, Koch, Myerchin, Peterson, Pool, and Wolf voted 'aye'. There were no 'nay' votes. Allen, Jones and Schaeffer—absent.

Other Business

Wade Peterson introduced Francine Morrell, who is the Department's new internal auditor. She will start her position on May 9, 2016.

The Council members decided they would all like state email addresses for Health Council work.

Jerry Jurena presented two policy options (ATTACHMENT B) on how to utilize the physician J-1 visa waiver positions allotted to the state.

GENNY DIENTSMANN MOVED TO APPROVE A J-1 VISA WAIVER POLICY WHEREBY IF THERE ARE UNUSED FLEX OPENINGS BY APRIL 1, THOSE OPENINGS COULD BE FILLED BY ANY NON-SHORTAGE AREA FOR ANY SPECIALTY INCLUDING FAMILY PRACTICE. SECOND BY DUANE POOL.

The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED. Allen, Dienstmann, Koch, Peterson, Pool, and Wolf voted 'aye'. Anderson and Jurena voted 'nay' votes. Jones, Myerchin and Schaeffer—absent.

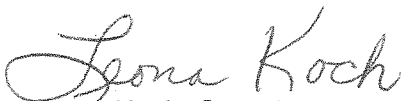
Wade Peterson reported hearing from two loan repayment recipients (Hannah Hauff and Tania Busch) who are contemplating changes that would affect their contracts. They are both in the first year of a 2-year contract and wondered what the consequences would be if they didn't fulfill their obligation.

The Council decided that Ms. Hauff, who is working as physician assistant at Sakakawea Medical Center in Hazen, would be out-of-compliance and wouldn't get paid for the first year.

Ms. Busch is working as a family practice nurse practitioner at Essentia Health in Jamestown and wants to switch to the James River Medical Center (JRMC) and work with an orthopedic surgeon. The Council would approve the move only if she asked for a letter from Essentia approving her move to the JRMC for the second year and if the JRMC is willing to supply the required match, which Essentia has done.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Submitted,


Leona Koch, Secretary

North Dakota Department of Health
SFN 8104

Date: APRIL 20, 2016

Please PRINT

[illegible]

After a discussion and review of the North Dakota J-1 policy, there are two options for the council's discussion and vote.

Option 1: leave the policy as it is – only permitting the 10 Flex waivers to be used for specialty physicians in non-HPSA areas; or

Option 2: create a policy that if there are unused Flex slots by April 1, those slots could be filled by any non-shortage area for any specialty. An example of this option is in place in the South Dakota Flex program and is cited below.

Based upon federal authorization, up to 10 J-1 physicians may now be placed in a non-designated area, as long as the employing facility can show that the physician is serving the underserved population.

Prior to April 1 of each federal fiscal year, under the special program the department may approve no more than five applications for J-1 physicians proposing to practice in any urban area and no more than five applications for J-1 physicians proposing to practice in any non-urban area. An urban area is defined as any municipality having a population of 50,000 or more persons as well as any area within 10 miles of the boundaries of such municipality. The department may approve any application on or after April 1.